

United States Senate
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For Immediate Release
Contact:

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Betsy Holahan (Gregg) 202-224-6011
Jill Gerber (Grassley) 202-224-6522
Craig Orfield (Enzi) 202-224-6770

**Gregg, Grassley and Enzi: Public Deserves Full Cost Estimate
of Reid's Re-Write of the Health Care Bill**

Senators Judd Gregg (R-NH), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), and Michael Enzi (R-WY), the ranking members of the Senate Budget Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, and the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, respectively, have requested that the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) provide a full and detailed estimate of Senate Majority Leader Reid's re-write of the health care reform bill as soon as possible after the re-write is publicly available.

"We have not been included in discussions as the Majority Leader's perfecting amendment has been developed behind closed doors, and instead have been forced to rely on media reports and rumor, so we can only guess at its impact on the economy and the American taxpayer," said Senators Gregg, Grassley and Enzi. "Therefore, we felt it important to request a full and detailed estimate of the Reid amendment so we could fully understand the true costs and new taxes it contains."

The December 14 letter states: "We believe CBO's complete analysis of the perfecting amendment needs to be made available to Senators well before a vote on the amendment occurs. Accordingly, CBO's analysis must be completed quickly to provide for sufficient time for review of the analysis so that Senators and the public are fully informed about the implications of the latest version of the plan on the federal budget and the health care system."

The letter asks specifically for estimates of: (1) the extent of the cuts to Medicare in the amendment and their impact on beneficiary access to providers of their choice, (2) the amendment's impact on premiums, (3) the amendment's impact on net federal spending on health care, (4) the amendment's gross and net impact on employer sponsored coverage, and (5) the amendment's impact on the growth of national health expenditures (i.e. bending the cost curve).